

the night, one of them just scaling the wall; and that they would have occupied the Capitol had not the sacred geese, by their cackling, awakened Manlius who rushed to the endangered spot and threw the enemy over the precipice. The dogs, having proved poor guardians, were henceforward doomed to the punishment of crucifixion, while a special festival was celebrated in honor of the geese.

It is more than probable that the story was invented to explain the custom, and that the custom is older than the story; for we are told that the sacred geese were fed on the Capitol because of their sacredness, and in spite of the rations being short while the Capitol was besieged. The Romans might have been tempted to kill the geese and eat them, but being naturally of a pious disposition they did not dare to kill the sacred birds, and their piety was rewarded by the vigilance of the geese. Even according to the legend the geese were regarded sacred before they saved Rome; and it is probable that dogs were crucified annually for other reasons.

We may safely assume that the crucifixion of dogs was simply the substitution of an animal sacrifice for a human sacrifice to the sun-god, such as was made among many primitive peoples in the age of savage institutions; and that this ritual act was combined with a procession of the geese as solar birds and emblems of immortality.

Geese represent the transmigration of the sun and the translation of the soul to other shores.

P. C.

A BUDDHIST CONVERT.

Allan McGregor was born in London in 1872, the son of a civil engineer. Having lost both his parents, his father in infancy, his mother when a boy of eleven years, he was educated at Bath, and the Colonial College at Hollesley Bay, Suffolk, England. He studied chemistry under Dr. Bernard Dyer, a prominent analyst of London, and also experimented to some extent with electricity. Being obliged to go to a southern climate on account of his health, he went to Ceylon and there became greatly interested in Buddhism. He met the prince-priest, the Rev. Jinavaravamsa, brother of the King of Siam, who had renounced the world to lead the life of a Buddhist monk. Allan McGregor lived for a time in a Buddhist temple in the Matara district, called Devagiri Vihara, under the tuition of Revata Thero, studying the Buddhist scriptures in the original Pāli. On the eighth of December, he entered the Sangha as a Buddhist Bhikkhu. His speech delivered on this occasion is a remarkable piece of oratory, in which he relates his life's history and gives the reasons which moved him to abandon the religion of his childhood for Buddhism. He tells of his interest in the Christian religion when a child, of the dogmas that impressed him deeply, the doctrine of Hell, the threat made to unbelievers, the necessity of believing in miracles which he afterwards learned in school to disbelieve. The more he studied, the more untenable became his religion. His first acquaintance with Buddhism was through the pages of Sir Edwin Arnold's poem "The Light of Asia." When necessitated to go south, he purposely chose a Buddhist country, and he now expresses his satisfaction at having entered the noble eight-fold path which leads to peace. As a Bhikkhu, he assumed the name of Ananda-Maitreya.

Mr. McGregor (*alias* Ananda-Maitreya) seems to be a fervid and energetic man, and we may expect to hear more about him in the near future.

No one can read the communications of Allan McGregor without feeling that

unless the leaders of the Christian Churches give an ear to such men as Professor Pearson, the inroads of the other religions will be as serious as the increase of infidelity in Christian countries. We cannot serve God and Mammon. Either we must preach belief by submission to traditional dogma and abolish schools and universities, or we recognise the duty of free inquiry. Either we accept science as a divine revelation and acknowledge that the God of science is the true and sole God, or we bow down before the idols of the letter. We cherish the confidence that at last the time will come when a genuine love of truth will restore to life the dead bones of our Churches.

P. C.

JOHN P. ALTGELD.

John P. Altgeld, Ex-Governor of Illinois, died suddenly in his fifty-fifth year on March 12, after a lecture which he had delivered in Joliet. He played an important part in American politics and showed throughout his life an undeniable zeal for the uplifting of the masses and the improvement of the conditions of the poor. That his intentions were honest and noble, we have never doubted, yet we believe that he was mistaken in the means he adopted to help the people during the Bryan-McKinley campaign when he espoused the cause of free silver. The respect which his political enemies accorded him after death is the best evidence that his character deserves recognition. After all that has been said in criticism of him, he made a good governor, and he was a man who had the courage of his convictions. We publish below a laudatory poem on John P. Altgeld by John F. Weedon.

P. C.

THE LEADER LOST.

Hewn from a rock, steadfast and true and bold ;
 Checked but undaunted, foremost in the strife
 He stood, unswervéd by the tide of life
 That whirled and eddied round him. Heart of gold
 Untouched by petty spite. Unconscious he
 Of mean detractors bubbling up apace
 That breaking spat their spleen full at his face.
 And greater than his strength his sympathy.

Altgeld is dead, and down beneath the sod
 His lifeless clay lies deep. His memory lives
 Marbled in immortality and gives
 Courage and strength to those who live to fight
 For gentleness, for honesty, for right.
 His work is ended, and he rests with God.

JOHN F. WEEDON.

PROFESSOR DELITZSCH'S LECTURE ON BABEL AND BIBLE.

We have had the good fortune to acquire an early copy of the lecture on Assyriological research which Professor Friedrich Delitzsch delivered last January before the Emperor of Germany, at a regular meeting of the German Oriental Society, and which he was specially invited to deliver a second time before the Emperor of Germany in the royal castle at Berlin. The first installment of the